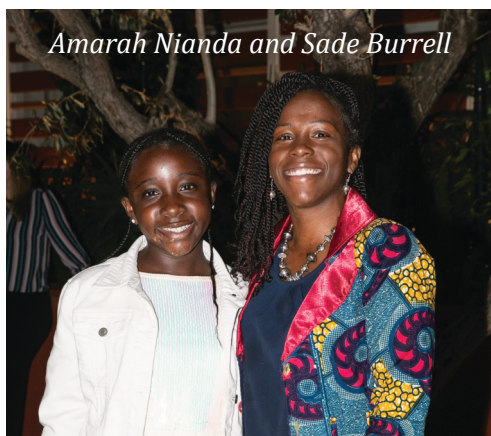


## Honoring 40 Changemakers For Children!

In recognition of Promises2Kids' 40th anniversary, on November 9th, we honored 40 Changemakers for foster children. The event was generously sponsored by ESET. Each Changemaker was honored for making a significant difference in the lives of San Diego's foster children. Thank you to our 40 Changemakers for *creating a brighter future for foster children®*!

Arthur & Jeannie Rivkin	Greg Cox	National Charity League	San Diego Padres
Bob & Laura Duggan	Honorable Ana L. España	Papa Doug Manchester	Senator Toni Atkins
Boyer Moving & Storage	Honorable James R. Milliken	Rady Children's Hospital, Developmental Services	Southwest Airlines
Children's Legal Services of San Diego	In-N-Out Burger Foundation	Ron & Mary Alice Brady	St. Germaine Children's Charity
City of San Diego Mayor's Office	Jeffrey Strauss & Pamplemousse Grille	Ron Roberts	Straight From The Heart
County of San Diego HHSA, Child Welfare Services	Joan Waitt	Sade Burrell	The Chadwick Center & Dr. David Chadwick (Posthumous)
David Dunn (Posthumous)	Kevin & Raegan Prior	San Diego County Board of Supervisors	The Goodall Family
Deborah Marengo	Las Patronas	San Diego County Office of Education - Foster Youth Services	Ticket to Dream Foundation
ESET	Lee Otto	San Diego Foster Parent Association & Debbie Stolz (Posthumous)	Walter J. & Betty C. Zable Foundation
Founders – Norma Hirsh, Renée Comeau, Robert K. Butterfield	Local Law Enforcement		
	Marcella Lee & CBS News 8		
	McCarthy Family Foundation		



Amarah Nianda and Sade Burrell



Katie Chadwick, Michele Chadwick  
and Lauren Hirsh



Ryan Pitchford and Marissa Parks



### Congratulations to our newly appointed Emeritus Member inductees!

This evening was the perfect opportunity to honor three individuals who have shown a clear commitment to foster children over the years. When individuals in our community demonstrate exceptional support of foster children, they are offered Emeritus status on the Board. Promises2Kids is proud to welcome Deborah Marengo, Papa Doug Manchester and Greg Cox as Emeritus Board Members!

Visit [www.promises2kids.org/changemakers-for-children](http://www.promises2kids.org/changemakers-for-children) to see more from this event.

**Get involved!** Volunteer or become a Promise Maker through a monthly gift. To learn more or make a gift today, visit: **Promises2Kids.org**

# Message from the CEO



and time again when they needed you most.

What we achieved in our 40th year and every year leading up to it, was truly amazing. None of it would have been possible without your unwavering commitment and support.

2021 was a year of growth, a year of pivoting when we had to, and doing what was necessary to make things happen. It was important that foster children in our community continued to feel loved and connected, and that we never lost sight of our purpose.

Being able to overcome unexpected obstacles excites me for the year ahead. I have no doubt that we are going to experience a year of extraordinary things! Promises2Kids will continue to focus on services that support mental health, there will be continued individual sibling visits on top of our monthly group visits, and there will be more tutoring opportunities, among many others.

I look forward to seeing what else we can accomplish together. Our work doesn't stop here. I hope that you'll stand with me as we continue *creating a brighter future for foster children.*®

**Tonya Torosian, MSW, CFRE**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Promises2Kids

*Promises2Kids continues to provide comfort and hope to more than 3,000 foster children in San Diego who cannot live safely at home. Each day we strive to create a brighter future for foster children in San Diego.*

## Board Of Directors

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Merrilee Neal, Chair**, Community Volunteer

**Stephanie Brown, Immediate Past Chair**

Manchester Financial Group, VP,  
Marketing & Public Relations

**Robert O'Connell, Vice Chair**

Dexcom, Director, Intellectual Property

**Lisa Matich, Treasurer**, Community Volunteer

**Emily Green Lake, Secretary**, Sisters Pizza, Owner

**Danielle Humphries, Executive Committee Member At Large**,  
Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP, Partner

### MEMBERS AT LARGE

**Arianne Bettazzi**, Carmel Mountain Preschool, Executive Director

**Andrew Bolinger**, Gatto, Pope & Walwick, Tax Partner

**Vivianne Villanueva Dhupa**, Community Volunteer

**Jaye Connolly-LaBelle**, RippleNami, Inc., Chairman & CEO

**Lisa Corbosiero**, Hi Tech Honeycomb, Co-Owner

**Lynne Doyle**, Community Volunteer

**Kerry Forde**, Kaiser Permanente, Chief Nurse Executive

**Roger Mansukhani**, Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP, Partner

**Carrie Miller**, SD Homes by Carrie/  
Keller Williams Real Estate, Realtor

**Mia Park**, Ranch & Coast Magazine, Editor-in-Chief

**Rob Pedersen**, Cal Private Bank, SVP/SBA Division Manager

**Brett Pernicano**, Dowling & Yahnke, Partner

**Tiffany Rosik**, TGR Management Consulting, President

**Karen Sedgwick**, Sempra Energy, SVP &  
Chief Human Resources Officer

**Jeffrey Strauss**, Pamplermousse Grille, Executive Chef & Owner

**Tonya Torosian**, Promises2Kids, Chief Executive Officer

**Mark Wills**, Loan Signing System, Owner

**Paul Zamora**, ICW Group Insurance Companies,  
SVP, Workers Compensation

**Dana Zhang**, Ambrx Inc., Vice President and Head of Finance

### FOUNDER EMERITUS

**Rob Butterfield**, Butterfield Schechter, LLP, Partner

**Renée Comeau**, Community Volunteer

**Norma Hirsh**, Community Volunteer

### EMERITUS

**Greg Cox**, County of San Diego Board of Supervisors – District 1, Retired

**Bob Duggan**, Marc-Aaron Realtors, Owner

**Jackson Goodall**, Jack-In-The-Box, Inc., Chairman, Retired

**Craig Irving**, Retired

**Honorable Lawrence Irving**, Retired

**Papa Doug Manchester**, Manchester Financial Group, Chairman

**Deborah Marengo**, Marengo Morton Architects, Vice President

**Honorable James R. Milliken**, Judge of the Superior Court, Retired

**Jeannie & Arthur Rivkin**, R Group Management Corp., Owners



# A Wish Granted Thanks To Your Support

One-year-old Mackenzie and two-year-old Eleanor both entered foster care at birth. Each was born premature with drugs in their system. Mackenzie has cerebral palsy and Eleanor suffers from autistic head banging and body rocking. Both girls struggle daily to fulfill their vestibular sensory needs.

Thanks to support from people like you, Promises2Kids was able to fulfill their foster mom's request of a sensory doorway swing. Mackenzie and Eleanor were overjoyed with excitement when the swing was installed in their play area. Since receiving the swing, it has aided them greatly in fulfilling their vestibular sensory needs and has also helped with both physical and occupational therapy. It has



improved their sensory regulation and they can now maintain their senses throughout the day. Without the swing, Mackenzie and Eleanor seek out unsafe opportunities to fulfill what their system requires. Now having the swing, they no longer run to the park every time they are in need of stimulation, have a meltdown or are feeling overwhelmed.



"This has been a blessing to the girls and our lives. This is so important to them and for future foster children in our home", shared their foster mom.

Your support allows us to continue fulfilling wishes year-round. Thank you for all you do to support foster children!

## Coming Together To Give Thanks



To celebrate Thanksgiving, Guardian Scholars gathered over two evenings and gave thanks at our annual Thanksgiving dinner. A traditional meal complete with turkey, stuffing and all the fixings was served to 160 students, staff, and supporters. Throughout the evening, attendees played games and took photos to capture the memorable celebration.

This dinner is one that students look forward to every year as an opportunity to share joy and come together as the holiday season begins. Thank you to Mattress Firm for donating the delicious pies for dessert. Without them, our amazing volunteers and supporters like you, this event would not have been possible.



# National Mentoring Month: Honoring Remarka

Growing up in the foster care system meant constant change – new placements, new social workers, etc. My experience with having a mentor thus far has been the opposite, someone who has been there consistently and it's really nice because that's not what I experienced in the past. In fact, I didn't know what a mentor was until I was introduced to my mentor, Nancy Cox. Nancy is someone who I can talk freely with, someone who supports me and someone who has such a caring heart. We've learned a lot about each other through shopping, it's my favorite thing to do with Nancy!



She also attends meetings with my counselor, housing program and social worker. She cares about my health, I know that because she took me to get my COVID vaccine! She's currently helping me study for my permit exam so I can get my driver's license and hopefully get my first car. Nancy is so wise and she's always finding ways to teach me, share her knowledge and experience with me. She's like my own little, wise owl. What I love about Nancy is that she doesn't expect anything but communication from me. The mantra we are living by is "help me help you" and I feel good about that because she reminds me to seek help when I need it.

- Antoinette

I am a 26-year-old college student studying Culinary Arts Entrepreneurship. I've been in and out the foster care system since I was 15. I am the first in my family to attend college, which has been big challenge for me. I have had my ups and downs with school. Being in foster care with many different mentors, therapists, and peers prevents me from opening up. I've had so many mentors, but I never met the right one until now.



When I first got accepted as a Promises2Kids Guardian Scholar, I never imagined being matched with my awesome mentor Loren Goldstein. When I did, she and I connected pretty quickly. We've been to a few events together and like taking my son to the park. She encourages me to take care of myself, especially after losing a few friends recently. Loren was even able to talk me out of my depressed stage. She keeps in touch with me regularly and checks in to see how I'm doing. Having Loren around makes feel like she's the right mentor because she really understands me and my goals in life. I couldn't ask for a better mentor.

- Precious



# Amazing Mentors Who Are Helping Change Lives!

My mentor Lisa Laube has gone above and beyond for me. As someone who grew up in a low-income household, I wanted to make something more of myself and seek academic guidance. Being the first person in my family to attend college, I felt like I had no one to turn to - until I met Lisa. She saw the potential in me before I did and does everything she possibly can to ensure I succeed in college. She encouraged me to apply for scholarships and went out of her way to help me collect the documents I needed when I was lacking them. I had already given up, but she never took “no” as an answer.



So here I am, a recipient of two scholarships that have helped me pave the way - thanks to her. She has been by my side every step of the way, from helping me with financial aid to signing up for my first classes, to attending every scholarship event. I talk with Lisa weekly, and we always discover new diners and cafes to meet at. Lisa was one of the first people I called when I got accepted into SDSU, and reached out to when I received my internships. It amazes me to see how much one can give without expecting anything in return. Lisa helps me grow academically, professionally, and personally - and that is precisely what having a mentor is all about.

- Elisabeth

Brian Kasper (who I call Kasper) is in the Navy and volunteers his spare time to be my Mentor. He is saving me from becoming another one of society's foster care statistics.

Kasper and I were connected over two years ago. He demonstrates the importance of leadership, hard work, and commitment. It is a privilege to take guidance from someone who has also been in foster care because it is more comforting having a mentor who understands.



I wasn't utilizing my resources to the point that I became homeless. My grades went from A's and B's to 3 F's and 2 withdrawals, I lost my job, got arrested twice and was questioning if pursuing my education was still something I wanted to do. I struggle with believing in myself, and it's honestly a battle that I face every day. With Kasper's help, I'm learning how to utilize tools and resources that are helping me get back on track. Kasper has helped me with my finances, finding a job, and much more. He consistently supports and motivates me.

Kasper has had a huge impact on my life. He has been a fantastic mentor and is guiding me on the right path. I hope I can be a mentor just like him in the future and achieve my goals of helping other people.

- Hector

# Siblings Enjoy Holiday Party

Last month, brothers and sisters separated in foster care enjoyed a beautiful day at SeaWorld during the Camp Connect holiday party, generously supported by ICW Group Insurance Companies.

Siblings were treated to a buffet lunch, that they enjoyed while opening gifts from ICW. Employees sponsored each child, carefully selected gifts from their wish lists, shopped, wrapped, and delivered gifts to the party. Youth unwrapped everything from polaroid cameras and perfume, to Tamagotchi's and plenty of toys!

Afterwards, siblings decorated cookies in the shape of snowmen and trees and watched the dolphin and orca shows while getting splashed in the splash zone together. They also went on all the rides that

SeaWorld has to offer, including the Journey to Atlantis, Tentacle Twirl, and Manta.

Brothers and sisters had the best time walking around the park and taking pictures in front of the festive decorations.

Each youth went home with a beautiful Beluga ornament gifted by SeaWorld, to remind them of this day and the special memories they created with their siblings.



## Reminding Foster Youth They Matter

The holidays were brighter for 811 current and former foster youth who each had the opportunity go shopping at Walmart stores throughout the County. Each youth received \$300-\$350 based on their age to help check items off their wish lists. The most desirable items were electronics, makeup, and art supplies.



Youth walked out of the store with full bags, smiles from ear to ear, and grateful hearts!

None of this would be possible without the dedication of time from our volunteers, and from the generosity of David Dunn and his wonderful family. Sadly, Mr. Dunn passed away last year. However, his legacy and spirit of giving continue to live on through our annual holiday shopping event.

There was no better time than the holidays to remind foster youth of how much they matter, that they are remembered, and deserve to receive gifts just like their peers.





# A Joyful Holiday Season Because Of You!

Wish lists were once again fulfilled this holiday season, through our annual Give From Your Heart Toy Drive, presented by Carmel Mountain Preschool.

For a second year, Carmel Mountain Preschool held their drive-thru Holiday Giving Parade where gift-givers enjoyed photos with Santa and the Grinch, music, lights, and fun photo opportunities. Through their location alone, over 1,200 gifts were collected.

Thanks to the kindness and generosity from the San Diego community, 15,538 gifts were collected, 292 gift cards were donated, and \$31,544 was raised – all to help put smiles on faces!

Caregivers, social workers, and children themselves were amazed by the selection of items they could select from and were extremely appreciative for the opportunity to select gifts that would brighten the holidays. From bikes and scooters, to books and boardgames, to electronic games and sporting equipment, the selection did not disappoint! This year's most sought-after toys for the younger ones included: LEGO, Barbie, Paw Patrol, LOL Dolls, Spiderman and Encanto.

Thank you to our long-time partners Carmel Mountain Preschool, KUSI, and Boyer Moving & Storage for making all this possible! And a big thank you to our incredible volunteers and those who donated for bringing joy to the lives of many very deserving foster children in our community.



## Welcome to our newest Board Members



**Arianne Bettazzi**  
*Carmel Mountain  
Preschool  
Executive Director*



**Andrew Bolinger**  
*Gatto, Pope & Walwick  
Tax Partner*



**Lynne Doyle**  
*Community Volunteer*



**Mark Wills**  
*Loan Signing System  
Owner*



# Happy New Year!



Thank you for all you do to support San Diego's foster youth!

*Wishing you happiness and good health in 2022!*

PROMISES2KIDS



FOODIES



4FosterKids



Calling all restaurants, bars, dessert shops and coffee shops! This May during National Foster Care Month, Promises2Kids will once again partner with local establishments to raise funds and awareness for foster children in San Diego.

To participate, email:  
Faye@Promises2Kids.org

Help  
foster  
children  
in need!



Text  
"PROMISES"  
To 707070



PROMISES2KIDS

*Cocktails  
for a Cause*



Learn more about Promises2Kids and how you can get involved, over an evening of light bites, drinks, and networking!

For more information, email:  
Corey@Promises2Kids.org